

THE EAGLE

ALS opens Heritage Hall
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70th Intelligence Wing
Fort George G. Meade, Maryland

December 2003

In Brief

MyPay offers electronic W-2s

ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN)—Current myPay military users and Defense Finance and Accounting Service civilian employees with myPay access will now automatically receive an electronic W-2.

The electronic method is now the primary means of delivery, officials said.

Users may elect to receive a printed W-2 by mail by choosing the hard-copy option through myPay before Dec. 1.

The online version, complete with printing instructions, is compatible for all tax purposes and allows users to have multiple copies without needing a hard copy. A save button is also available to allow individuals to save their W-2s to disk.

There will be a "no change" period from Dec. 1 through Jan. 31, officials said. During this period users will not be allowed to change their W-2 print election on myPay but may request a paper W-2 by contacting their local financial services office.

To select the hard copy W-2, go to <https://mypay.dfas.mil>. Under Taxes, select "Turn on/off Hardcopy of W-2." Once this option is selected, carefully read the various questions posed. The user will be given the opportunity to select "hard copy." This will allow the user to receive a hard copy by mail and still be able to see the W-2 electronically.

Please direct questions to Finance at 301-677-0815.

SMSgt. Steve Staycoff earns Bronze Star

By TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday
70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs
Fort Meade, Md.

SMSgt. Steve Staycoff was presented the Bronze Star Medal by Maj. Gen. Paul LeBras, Air Intelligence Agency commander, in a ceremony held Oct. 17 in the National Security Agency.

Staycoff spearheaded the 70th Intelligence Wing's first-ever Air Force-National Tactical Integration forward deployment as superintendent of the Air Force Cryptologic Services Group for the Ninth Aerospace Expeditionary Task Force from January to May 2003.

"Sergeant Staycoff was the cornerstone of the Combined Air Operation Center's cryptologic support effort," Lt. Col. Cedric Leighton, former chief of the Air Force Cryptologic Services Group, said. "He revolutionized the delivery of specialized intelligence to air combat operations. He brilliantly oversaw the flawless transmission of threat warning data to over 35,000 combat sorties."

Staycoff's Air Force career began in September 1982, when he entered active duty as a cryptologic linguist. Since that time, he has flown more than 500 operational sorties totaling more than 5,500 flight hours, including

combat support time during several Operation Southern Watch tours, predominately on RC-135, C-130 and EP-3 reconnaissance aircraft.

He has been at Fort Meade since September 2000 where he initially served as operations superintendent and now serves as Signals Intelligence Development Strategy and Governance action officer for the Air Force Cryptologic Office.

"Steve integrated coalition personnel into our team without jeopardizing systems security," Leighton said. "He was the primary author of our tactics,

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photo by TSgt. Kristina Brown
Maj. Gen. Paul LeBras, Air Intelligence Agency commander, presented SMSgt. Steve Staycoff with the Bronze Star Medal Oct. 17.

Commander bids farewell, happy holidays to wing, Fort Meade

By Col. James O. Poss

70th Intelligence Wing commander
Fort Meade, Md.

This holiday season, we will come together once again to celebrate our faith and welcome the New Year while spending treasured time with our loved ones.

For those fortunate enough to spend the holidays with their families, let us be mindful of those families left behind while their loved ones are deployed around the globe. Take the time to call and look in on our Air Force family members that are separated because of deployments – they need support from us all, now more than ever.

I'm sure that most of you already know that I will be handing over the reins of the 70th Intelligence Wing to Col. Fred Gortler Jan. 15. My wife, Joyce, and I head to Ramstein, where I will be the United States Air Forces in Europe Intelligence Director.

I am grateful for my time spent here at the 70th. The men and women of the 70th are some of the best people – the most professional and dedicated warriors in the business. Our wing has been at the forefront of the war against terrorism since its beginning. I am confident that you will continue to focus and do your best to help our fellow airmen, sister services, and our allies fight this treacherous enemy.

As most of you know, I directed an examination of the wing's structure to determine how to best organize ourselves to achieve greater efficiency and to become more consistent with other Air

Force wings and to meet the CSAF's objective wing structure. I am pleased to announce the study has been completed and we are ready to operate in accordance with its findings, even as we await final approval for the redesignation and stand-up of new wing structures.

At the core of the wing reorganization is the "normalization" of the 694th Intelligence Group, which in its current structure executes major operational and mission support functions. The goal is to create two separate groups from the current 694th IG: the 70th Operations Group and the 70th Mission Support Group, both with wing-wide responsibilities. I use the term "goal" because the stand-up of a new group requires higher headquarters approval and an additional O-6 billet; however, I am confident of approval on both of these fronts.

I want to emphasize the important part each of you plays as we continue to transform the 70th Intelligence Wing. Any change, especially organizational change can be difficult, but the need for this one is both compelling and mandated by Air Force instructions. Every part of this plan has met my scrutiny and I am convinced it is absolutely the right way to go. I ask for and expect your full support as we set out on the path to make the 70th Intelligence Wing the premier combat intelligence wing in our nation's Air Force.

My final commander's comments offer me the perfect opportunity to remind each of you one last time how important you are to the wing, Air Force mission and

ultimately the country. We are a huge and very important team that will continue to fight as long as it takes to preserve the American freedoms. Preserving our liberty and freedom has and will always continue to require great resolve, determination and cost.

I know that you will continue to remain vigilant in protecting our homeland from future attacks, yet you must prepare to pave the way for our next phase of growth as we transform into an even larger wing. With that said, we all need time to relax and recharge our batteries. Make the time to enjoy the sights and smells of the season. We must take care of each other in order for us to succeed. We can't fight at optimum performance if we're missing vital members who took risks they shouldn't have during the holidays.

Today as our thoughts turn to the promise of peace and goodwill around the world—may the spirit, magic and joy of the holiday season be with all of you.

Joyce and I wish you a happy holiday and New Year wherever you may be. Our thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you as you continue to give America the most precious gift – security.



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THE EAGLE is a monthly publication. Deadline for submissions is the second Monday of the month prior to publication. Call Public Affairs at 301-677-0838/0600 with story ideas or items of interest. Public Affairs is located in Bldg. 9805, room 222.

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Commander's Action Line

The action line is a monthly column designed to address the questions and concerns of members of the 70th Intelligence Wing.

Questions and concerns must be accompanied by a complete name, phone number or e-mail address for official responses. For privacy concerns, names will be withheld from newsprint on request. All Action Line items will receive the commander's attention. Action items can be brought into the public affairs office in building 9805, room 222 or e-mailed to 70iw.pa@ft-meade.af.mil.

Wing member named top CAP advocate

By Civil Air Patrol Capt. Doug Barth
Fort McHenry
Composite Squadron member
Fort McHenry, Md.

The Maryland Wing of the Civil Air Patrol recognized SSgt. Larry Moore of the 22nd Intelligence Squadron as its Cadet Programs Advocate of the Year.

Moore, who is 1st Lt. Larry Moore in the CAP is a qualified volunteer private pilot who flies for CAP. He is involved with the Cadet Aerospace Education and Leadership Programs, where CAP cadets are given the opportunity to fly five powered-orientation flights in single engine Cessnas, with a qualified CAP pilot.

Moore has flown more than 40 cadet orientation flights in the past year. Cadets learn basic aircraft aerodynamics, flight control, communications and safety procedures during these flights.

Moore was nominated for the award by one of the cadets that he took on an

orientation flight and his CAP squadron commander. The award was presented by Col. Lawrence Trick, Maryland Wing commander, during the wing's 2003 conference.

In addition to the flights, Moore is also an advocate for U.S. Air Force service, discussing opportunities and careers in the Air Force.

A native of Houston, Texas, Moore enlisted in the Air Force in December 1985. He is a member of the Maryland Wing's Fort McHenry Composite Squadron, based in Catonsville, Md.



Courtesy photo

Civil Air Patrol Col. Lawrence Trick, Maryland Wing commander, presents 1st Lt. Larry Moore with the Cadet Programs Advocate of the Year award during the wing's annual conference.

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techniques and procedures to infuse signals intelligence products into every phase of the Combined Air Operations Center kill chain.

"His superb efforts, both prior to and during Operation Iraqi Freedom produced the best-ever signals intelligence support to the joint air warfighter," Leighton said. "His unparalleled expertise in airborne reconnaissance capabilities enabled him to posture our intelligence collection efforts for the war and its aftermath. Through his attention to detail, technical expertise, and unflagging professionalism, he prevented the compromise of the coalition air picture to the enemy, saving countless lives."

"I am humbled," Staycoff said. "I will wear this medal with pride knowing that there were so many people that

actually earned it. I do not consider it an individual medal even though it was awarded that way. I will never forget the exemplary efforts by our entire team and those at our reach back locations in the states, especially the men and women in the National Security Agency and its field sites, the Air Force Cryptologic Office, the 70th Intelligence Wing, the 94th Intelligence Squadron and the 31st Intelligence Squadron."

"I would be remiss not to identify the rest of the enlisted team that put the ultimate power of signals intelligence in the laps of the warfighter," he said.

He listed Chief Tech. Gary Warner, United Kingdom; SMSgt. Kevin Ridgway, Permanent Party; SMSgt. Beth Quirk, 31st Intelligence Squadron; Sgt. Steve Raper, United Kingdom; Sgt. Roy Leslie, United Kingdom; TSgt. Shawn Wilson, 94th Intelligence Squadron; TSgt. Pat Day, 566 Information Operations Squadron; TSgt. Alan Haltom, Permanent Party;

TSgt. Todd Thompson, Permanent Party; TSgt. Don Nichols, 12th Air Force; Cpl. Mike Copeland, United Kingdom; and SSgt. Jason Tuckett, 94th Intelligence Squadron.

"These are the real heroes that pulled it all together," Staycoff said. "I would also like to mention our team's officer corps that advised and guided our efforts." They are Lt. Col. Ced Leighton, 70th Intelligence Wing; Capt. Chip Von Heiland, Defense Language Institute; and Flt. Lt. Karen Reid, Australia.

The Bronze Star Medal is authorized by Executive Order 9419, February 4, 1944. The medal is awarded to military members who, while serving in any capacity with the Armed Forces of the United States, distinguish themselves by heroic or meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against an armed enemy.

Air Force celebrates 56th birthday in style

Meade Top Three holds ball at club

By TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday

70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs
Fort Meade, Md.

Not even Hurricane Isabel could stop Air Force members stationed at Fort Meade from celebrating the 56th birthday of the Air Force.

Originally scheduled for Sept. 20, the time when local area residents were engaged in Hurricane Isabel cleanup, the event was postponed until Oct. 3. About 300 people were in attendance.

Themed, "Lest We Forget," decorations and presentations focused on various decades and campaigns throughout the Air Force's history. Guest speaker for the event was Brig. Gen. Neal Robinson, Air Force Cryptologic Office director and Air Intelligence Agency vice commander.

One of the final presentations of the evening featured Col. James Poss, 70th Intelligence Wing commander, presenting Col. John Ives, Fort Meade installation commander, with an 8th Air Force baseball cap and Air Force Academy windsuit. Ives' baseball cap features embroidered words, "Fort Meade Air Force Base commander." Each year the post is designated Fort Meade Air Force Base for the day, in honor of the Air Force's birthday, which is actually Sept. 17.



Col. James Poss, 70th Intelligence Wing commander, accepts an American flag flown over the Pentagon Sept. 11, 2003 from MSgt. Mitch Ross, honor guard. The flag was given to the wing as a gift from the 2003 birthday ball committee, commemorating the occasion.





CLOCKWISE: Brig. Gen. Neal Robinson, Air Force Cryptologic Office director at Fort Meade, and Vice Commander for Headquarters Air Intelligence Agency at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas,

was the guest speaker for the Air Force Birthday Ball. Members from the Baron 52 sang throughout the evening's festivities. Members are, from left to right: MSgt. Jasper James, SSgt. Roger Liggins, SSgt. Ryan Hollingsworth and MSgt. Stanton Palmer. SSgt. Trevor Woodcock also sang with the group. Two ball-goers take a moment to reflect on Air Force history while viewing one of the many displays featured at the birthday ball.



▲ Birthday cake served during the Air Force Birthday Ball was cut by the enlisted member with the least amount of active duty time, Airman Basic Stacy Gallegos, and the longest serving Air Force officer, Col. Dennis Mitzel.

► Col. James Poss, 70th Intelligence Wing commander; presents an Air Force cap and windsuit to U.S. Army Col. John Ives, Fort George G. Meade installation commander; during the Air Force Birthday Ball at Club Meade. Every year in honor of the Air Force's birthday, the commander names the post Fort Meade Air Force Base for the day. The cap presented by Poss was embroidered with words listing Ives as commander of 'Fort Meade Air Force Base.'



photos by TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday

ALS Heritage Room officially opens



photos by TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday

Col. James Poss, 70th Intelligence Wing commander, at right, cuts the ribbon during official grand opening ceremonies Nov. 12 for the Airman Leadership School Heritage Room at Fort Meade. With him are, CMSgt. David Marsh, 70th IW command chief master sergeant, and MSgt. Elizabeth Deneke, ALS commandant.



ABOVE and AT RIGHT: Static displays show off Air Force uniforms from the 1970s and 80s donated by airmen. The ALS heritage room features photo, graphic and static displays of Air Force missions, aircraft and people. In addition to the room, several displays are featured in the classroom at the main ALS building and in the second classroom at the McGill Center. The heritage room and classrooms focus on the history of the Air Force, the 694th IG and its squadrons and the enlisted perspective from recent and past air campaigns.

Room, displays feature enlisted heritage

By TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday

70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs
Fort Meade, Md.

Official ribbon cutting ceremonies for the new 70th Intelligence Wing Airman Leadership School Heritage Room were held Nov. 12.

The ribbon was cut by Col. James Poss, 70th Intelligence Wing commander, with assistance from CMSgt. David Marsh, 70th Intelligence Wing command chief master sergeant, and MSgt. Elizabeth Deneke, ALS commandant.

"The mission of the Airman Leader-

ship School is to prepare senior airmen for supervisory duties and foster a commitment to the profession of arms," Deneke said. "With the establishment of the enlisted heritage room, we hope to enhance their commitment to the profession of arms."

More than 200 senior airmen from the 70th participate in ALS each year. About seven graduation ceremonies are held each year.

The displays, not only in the heritage room, but also in the main and second classroom provide pictorial and static items of unique and noteworthy missions,

aircraft and people.

"Both the pictorial and static displays document the Air Force and enlisted heritage," Deneke said. "We were very fortunate to acquire most of our photographs from a display at the Pentagon that was being updated. We also received donated uniforms from people that are part of the 70th today."

Displays feature uniforms from the 70s and 80s, historical information from the 694th Intelligence Group and its squadrons and historical perspectives focusing on enlisted members involved in recent and past air campaigns.



Taking care of our own

Members from all service branches joined together at the Fort Meade Training and Education Center to support the Holiday Assistance Program at Fort Meade. About 50 volunteers packed 500 food bags filled with items such as cereal, pasta, canned goods, rice and other non-perishables to stretch meals through the holiday week. Recipients also received a care box filled with either hygiene items or an additional food box.

photos by TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday





photo by TSgt. Kristina Brown

Col. Kathryn Gauthier, 694th Intelligence Group commander, at right, speaks during the annual C-130 rededication ceremony at Fort Meade. The C-130A static display is painted to resemble the aircraft that flew 44 years ago on a routine flight along the Turkish-Armenian border, a reconnaissance-configured C-130 aircraft. The C-130 strayed into Soviet airspace and 17 Air Force aircrew members were killed. Eleven of those members were from United States Air Force Security Services, the predecessor to the Air Intelligence Agency. In addition to the memorial, each year on Sept. 2 the 17 airmen and all other Cold War aerial reconnaissance crews are remembered.

70th honors fallen aircrew during annual ceremony

Support squadron troops win big at AIA

By TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday

70th Intelligence Wing Public Affairs
Fort Meade, Md.

Two airmen from the 694th Support Squadron were dubbed for top Air Intelligence Agency Security Forces Support Staff awards for 2003.

TSgt. Brent Hadway, Security Forces flight commander, and SrA. Amy Parillo, personnel security specialist, were winners in their respective categories.

Hadway, serves not only as the 694th SPTS SF flight commander, but as the 70th Intelligence Wing Security Forces chief, both senior NCO positions. "He is a superior NCO—really high-speed, in fact, his nickname is Superman," Lt. Col. John Kaplan, 694th SPTS commander, said.

"He initiates innovative practices and improves everything he touches. He's consistently result-oriented."

As flight commander, Hadway oversees three intelligence groups, with more than 6,500 people. He manages the highest number of security information files in AIA, as outlined in his nomination package, and he was able to reduce the number of members awaiting security clearances by 35 percent.

Parillo "stepped into the SF office and immediately impacted customer support," Kaplan said. Her job includes assistance with more than 300 monthly customer service requests, scheduling polygraph testing, indoctrinating more than 550 and debriefing more than 475 members.

"She takes all taskings head on and

she improves every one of them," Kaplan said. "She is a seasoned security forces professional ensuring security clearance paperwork gets processes as quickly as possible. She is a true reflection of the 694th SPTS's can do motto."

Parillo created and spearheaded the periodic reinvestigation briefing for 70th IW and 694th Intelligence Group members.

Does someone you know deserve to be spotlighted for a personal or professional accomplishment?

***Contact 'The Eagle' staff at
301-677-0600/0838.***



▲ Congressman Porter Goss, Florida's 14th District representative, accepts an MSOC memento from Navy Cmdr. Jim Brokaw, Naval Security Group Activity commander, during his visit to Misawa Air Base's Security Operations Center in August.

Misawa welcomes Congressional delegates



▲ A group of Congressional delegates takes time out for a group photo while visiting the MSOC to discuss issues affecting the site.

Misawa group earns director's trophy

On July 17, Lt. Gen. Michael Hayden, director of the National Security Agency, at a ceremony here, presented the Director's Trophy to the 373rd Intelligence Group, located at Misawa Air Base, Japan.

This trophy is awarded by the director to the military service organization that has made the best contribution to the intelligence mission for the year.

Accepting the award for the 373rd IG were Shari Henderson, DoD representative, SPC Christian Noel, LTJG Laurie Southard, SMSgt. Dean Yoder, and Col. Fred Gortler.



Misawa Security Operations Center officials and 70th Intelligence Wing leadership accept the National Security Agency Director's Trophy on behalf of the MSOC, presented yearly to the organization that has made the most significant contribution to the intelligence mission.

The Misawa Security Operations Center is comprised of components from 373rd IG, Naval Security Group Activity Misawa, 403rd Military Intelligence Detachment, and DoD.

"2002 was the year that the 373d

Intelligence Group focused on its lead service responsibilities to posture Misawa's joint force for success," Gortler, 373rd IG and Misawa Security Operations Center commander, said. "Today, the airmen of the 373rd IG are joined by representatives of the joint team that made 2002 a seminal year for Misawa."

Representatives from the U.S. Army, Military Intelligence Detachment, 3rd

Special Forces Group (Airborne); the U.S. Marine Corp. First Radio Battalion; and the U.S. Naval Security Group Activity Bahrain were also present to accept on behalf of their organizations.

Eagle Warrior



SSgt. Mitchell Overton

Years of Service: 7 yrs

Hometown: Clint, Texas

Family: Matthew Christopher Overton, three-year-old son

Job Title: Operations Superintendent, Unconventional Operations Branch

Primary Duties and Responsibilities: Responsible for maintaining a 24/7, 25-member workcenter. Establishes policies and procedures needed to meet mission requirements

Most Rewarding Job Aspect: Being an NCO.

Goals: Acceptance into the Military COMINT Signals Analysis Program - complete bachelor's degree -retire as chief master sergeant

Hobbies: Football and basketball

Favorite Aspect of Fort Meade: Col. Ives and CSgtMaj Bakker have an excellent recognition program that includes all military services. Also, the MPs that man the post gates are very professional and friendly.

What would you change about Fort Meade? Move it to Texas!

70th Intelligence Wing salutes ...

Airman Leadership School Graduates, Class 2003-H

Class 2003-H graduates

Academic Achievement Award

SrA Emaleen Scism
22nd Intelligence Squadron

Leadership Award

SrA Ronald Maez
22nd IS

Distinguished Graduate Award

SrA Elizabeth Winters
22nd IS

John Levitow Award

SrA Ronald Maez
22nd IS

22nd IS

SrA Rachael Bailey
SrA Matthew Davidson
SrA George De Luca
SrA Aaron Erb
SrA Ronald Maez
SrA Larisa Maxwell

SrA Emaleen Scism
SrA Elizabeth Winters

29th IS

SrA Rene Diaz Vegaulla
SrA Demetrius Wells

32nd IS

SrA Richard Jacob
SrA Robert Jordan

91st IS

SrA Matthew Brookshire

94th IS

SrA Sean Sheffield

Det. 1, 23rd Intelligence Operations

Squadron

SrA Phuong Nguyen

11th Medical Group

SrA Ediale Alli

Class 2004-A graduates

Academic Achievement Awards

SrA Paul Farr
32nd IS

SrA Joi Taylor
DET 1, 23 IOS

LEADERSHIP AWARD

SrA Corey Terceira
91st IS

Distinguished Graduate Award

SrA Corey Terceira
91st IS

John Levitow Award

SrA Jessica Bocanegra
29th IS

22nd Intelligence Squadron

SrA Daniel Rojas

29th Intelligence Squadron

SrA Jessica Bocanegra
SrA Jerome Carey
SrA Damon Cundiff

SrA Joshua Evans
SrA Daniel Fockel

32nd Intelligence Squadron

SrA Paul Farr
SrA Kevin Havens
SrA James Henning
SrA Brandy Kimball
SrA Warner Scroggins

91st Intelligence Squadron

SrA Corey Terceira

694th Support Squadron

SrA Carlton Carter
SrA Ebony Locklear

Det. 1, 23 Intelligence Operations

Squadron

SrA Joi Taylor

Det. 1 Air Intelligence Agency AFCCO

SrA Jonathan Jones

Quarterly Awards Second Quarter

70th Intelligence Wing Airman
SrA. Nicole Oppido
694th IG

70th Intelligence Wing NCO
SSgt. Anel Nay
373rd IG

70th Intelligence Wing SNCO
MSgt. Raymond Irizarry
694th IG

70th Intelligence Wing CGO
1st Lt. Paul Holup
694th IG

70th IW Jr. Civilian
Corinne Whitworth
70th IW

70th IW Sr. Civilian
Susan Reeves
694th IG

San Antonio Security Hill
Junior Enlisted Member
SrA. Brian Warren
93rd IS

San Antonio Security Hill
Honor Guard NCO
SSgt. Shannon Barkley
93rd IS

Third Quarter

70th Intelligence Wing Airman
A1C Brian Warren
543rd IG

70th Intelligence Wing NCO
SSgt. David G. Maldonado
543rd IG

70th Intelligence Wing SNCO
MSgt. Mimi Ducane
70th IW

70th Intelligence Wing CGO
1st Lt. Brian Duckworth
543rd IG

70th Intelligence Wing Jr Civ
Athena Crabtree
373rd IG

70th Intelligence Wing Sr Civ
Alice Ybarra
543rd IG

Annual Awards

70th IW
C & I 3A XXX Airman
SrA. Autumn L. Dotson
694th IG

70th IW C & I
3CXXX Airman
SrA. Shonda L. Moye
94th IS

70 IW C & I
3A XXX NCO
SSgt. Michelle Harte
94th IS

70th IW C & I
3CXXX NCO
TSgt. Timothy G. Reidy
93rd IS

70th IWC & I 3
A XXX SNCO
MSgt. Irving Moore Jr., II
70th IW

70th IW C & I
3CXXX SNCO
MSgt. Kenneth E. Woods
373rd SPTS

70th IW Wing Staff Airman
Amn Garfield Woodberry

70th IW Wing Staff NCO
TSgt. Paul Hofer

70th IW Wing Staff SNCO
MSgt. Mimi Ducane

70th IW Civilian
Financial Analyst
Susan Reeves
694th IG

70th IW Resource Advisor
MSgt. Walt Assur

ALS Academic Award
SSgt. Lisa Schindler
93rd IS

ALS John Levitow Award
SSgt. Michael Warren
93rd IS

32nd Intelligence Squadron

Achievement Medal:
SrA Jerde Quattlebaum
A1C Eric Ditrich
SSgt. Patricia Cartagena
SSgt. Nathan Griswold
SSgt. Brian Brewster
SSgt. Christopher McKee

Good Conduct:
SrA Samantha Lavine
SrA Thomas Earnest
SrA Katherine Adams
SrA Tobias Conrady
SrA Michael Pouzar
A1C Kelly Olin
SrA Alexis Artis
SrA Ginger Conrad
SrA Amy Kilrane

**Defense Meritorious
Service Medal:**
SMSgt. John Butler
MSgt. Jerry Fails

Hot Stuff

Ms. Terrell Prettyman from the 'Red Hot Chuck Wagon Gang,' representing the small computers flight, serves a brave chili-goer.

The annual chili cookoff, sponsored by the 694th Support Squadron Wings of Flight Booster Club, brought together many folks at lunchtime Nov. 14.

SC took top honors in both the 'best theme' and 'best overall' categories. Other RHCWG members are TSgt. Janice Smith, SSgt. Christopher Gile and SSgt. Monique Jacob. Top honor for the 'hottest chili' was given to SSgt. Daryl Keegan of the commander support staff.



photo by TSgt. Marilyn C. Holliday

Promotions: Who's really in control?

By MSgt. Cindy McCullough

70th Intelligence Wing career advisor
Fort Meade, Md.

The normal enlisted promotions track basically falls into three categories: E-1 through E-4, a progression based on time in grade; E-5 through E-7, a combination of test scores, EPRs, time in grade, time in service and medal points; and E-8 and E-9, which combines the previous criteria with a board score.

Now I don't know about you, but

when I was an airman I had more than one supervisor or NCO tell me my chances of getting picked up for promotion were slim because my particular AFSC never PCS'd. I wasn't competitive with those other airman that went overseas or to other locations and received medals upon PCS. Basically, they killed my spirit and made me think I was in a dead-end job, and I'd never see anything above tech sergeant, if that. You see, they were NCOs and the ones that had "been there, done that" ... my mentors.

I'm here to tell you they were wrong! It took me awhile to figure that out and to realize that basically I controlled my promotability and career.

That's right, you play a major role in whether or not you'll get promoted and that's because the biggest factor in promotions that most of us neglect is studying. Yes, that's right! Okay, so maybe you didn't get a five on your last EPR, or maybe you should have received a medal when you PCS'd, but with a little more time and effort hitting the books you

can make those points up. How much time and effort are you willing to invest in yourself?

What about those subjective board scores for E-8 and E-9? Educate yourself. Find out what you need to be doing to improve your board scores. I've attached a self-assessment guide to help you see how you stack up against your competitors. The assessment of course is no guarantee you'll get promoted, but it will give you an idea of how you stack up against your competitors.

What are you missing or what do you need to be doing to improve your chances for that next stripe? If you want to progress to the next rank, then you'll have to study harder and work on the professional growth areas that will improve your board score.

Bottom line, take control! Don't let the bad or misguided advice of others discourage you. Educate yourself about the promotion system and its criteria, study, get involved and do what you must to improve your promotion chances.

Senior NCO promotion self-assessment

By MSgt. Cindy McCullough

70th Intelligence Wing career advisor
Fort Meade, Md.

How do you stack up against your peers when being considered for senior master sergeant?

This worksheet is compiled from previous promotion board after action reports. The information is the criteria board members considered pertinent to career enhancement. Some information is standard from board-to-board, while some is unique to individual boards.

This is by no means a guarantee that if you follow this guide you'll be selected for senior master sergeant; however, it's just a good guide to help you gauge your career and competitiveness to the rank of senior master sergeant.

Don't forget that your USAFE exam plays a role in your promotion score so

study. Combining this assessment with how well you normally test should give you a good picture of your competitiveness for promotion.

Do I Possess Factors Which Could Detract From My Score?

- ▶ Over 6 years TIG
- ▶ Home/Job steading
- ▶ Same job description year after year
- ▶ Less than 5 on any of last 3 EPRs or no SRE

- ▶ No decoration upon PCS, or latest decoration over 5 yrs old

Am I Average?

- ▶ EPR on top with Senior Rater Endorsement
- ▶ Completed SNCOA correspondence
- ▶ CCAF Degree in career field
- ▶ Decoration with each PCS

Am I above average?

- ▶ Base or Community involvement
- ▶ Firewall 5s on EPRs
- ▶ SR endorsement on all eligible EPRs
- ▶ SNCOA completed

- ▶ MSM on top of decoration package
 - ▶ Additional degree or licensing in related or similar field career filed
 - ▶ Professional degree unrelated to career field, (especially harmful if SNCOA not completed)
 - ▶ Short-term successful assignment other than your normal job with a successful return to original career field
- ### Am I Outstanding?

- ▶ Monthly, quarterly, or annual award winner
- ▶ Received PME award
- ▶ Local community or public recognition
- ▶ Success in positions well above established standards or measurements for a master sergeant
- ▶ Sustained Outstanding Performer (EPR contains one or more of above qualities each year)

For more information, contact me at 301-677-0371